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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

18-22 September, 1978

Meeting held in Helsinki, Finland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Helsinki, Finland
18-22 September, 1978

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 8.30 on Monday, 18 September.

Opening worship was led by the Moderator, worship at subsequent sessions being led by Bishop Harms, Dr Wedel, Bishop Antonie and Mrs Sampath. Miss Skuse led the closing act of worship.

On Sunday, 17 September, a number of Executive Committee members and staff visited and preached in parishes in Helsinki and elsewhere in Finland.

On the evening of 17 September, participants in the meeting were the guests of Bishop and Mrs Nikolainen at a reception in their home. On the following evening, participants were invited to a reception by the Ecumenical Council of Finland and had an opportunity to learn about its work. On Wednesday, 20 September, there was a Festive Gathering at Helsinki Cathedral, at which the speakers were Mrs Justice Jiagge, Archbishop Sundby, His Holiness Karekin II and the General Secretary. This was followed by a reception at the home of Metropolitan John of Helsinki.

On the afternoon of Thursday, 21 September, there was a State Reception by the Ministry of Education, and on Friday, 22 September, the Officers of the WCC were received by the President of Finland, Mr Urho Kekkonen, who commended the Council for its courageous stand on burning issues of justice and peace in the world.

At the opening session the Moderator paid tribute to Metropolitan Nikodim, who had died on 5 September, and participants stood in silent memory of him.

Bishop Nikolainen welcomed the Executive Committee on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Ecumenical Council of Finland.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies from Dr Visser 't Hooft, Dr Simatupang and Mr Gatu. He introduced the special guest, Archbishop

Simojoki, and the observers from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, the Ecumenical Council of Finland and the Host Committee.

C. Minutes

It was noted that the dates of the Central Committee in 1980 were 14-22 August. With this correction, the minutes of the meeting held in Zürich, Switzerland, 13-17 February 1978, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda

The General Secretary presented the agenda, which was adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

After thanking the churches in Finland for inviting the Executive Committee to meet in Helsinki, the General Secretary reported on activities since the last meeting of the Committee. He said that many Commissions had met in the meantime and oral reports would be submitted on behalf of the Units. He stressed the immense range of the WCC's work and its worldwide spread, which was not always appreciated by the member churches because the secular media concentrated on so few parts of the work. He asked how the churches could be better informed. The General Secretary reminded the Committee of the reduction in staff from 350 in 1970 to the present total of 290, which included 110 programme staff; the work load had, however, greatly increased, putting greater strain on the nervous and physical energies of staff.

Visits and meetings

The General Secretary reported that, immediately after the last Executive Committee meeting, he had visited Jamaica for the meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Council of Bishops. He had been struck by the special character of this historic church and wondered how this and other black churches in the USA could play a greater role in the life of the WCC. In April he had visited, with Mr Makhulu, churches in Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia and Zaïre and had been impressed by their vitality, shown in their creative worship and relationships. He asked how this richness could be shared with the Church Universal and how the WCC could help these churches to exercise a prophetic and pastoral role in their nations.

The Officers had met in May in Antelias, Beirut, Lebanon, as guests of His Holiness Karekin II. They had held discussions with the heads of many churches in the area, the staff of the Middle East Council of Churches and

government officials. They had subsequently visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece. The Archbishop of the Church and its Council on Foreign Relations had made strong criticisms of the WCC, claiming that they spoke for all Orthodox Churches. They referred particularly to the minority position of Orthodox members in WCC Assemblies, committees and staff. It was felt that there had been no real dialogue between the Orthodox Churches and those of the Reformation. The General Secretary said that a fuller meeting would be held with the Church of Greece, but there was also a longer term problem.

The General Secretary reported that he had attended the Congress of the Archiepiscopate of North and South America in July, and he referred also to the Lambeth Conference at which the Moderator, Dr Wedel, Dr Raiser and the Rev. David Gill had been present. He felt that the Anglican Communion should be playing a more significant role in the WCC.

A number of church leaders had visited the World Council headquarters. They included Catholicos Vasken I of the Armenian Apostolic Church; the President of the United Church of Christ in the USA; the General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America; Bishop Newbigin, Moderator of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain; Bishop Held of the EKiD; and representatives of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Dr Potter asked how the WCC could effectively relate to its member churches so that they could similarly relate to the Council, and stressed the need for a pluralistic approach.

Actions following last Executive Committee meeting

The General Secretary then turned to actions taken in response to the directives of the Executive Committee in February.

Finance and budgets had been discussed by the Officers and Moderator of the Finance Committee as well as by the staff and a proposal to deal with the situation in terms of a three-year period would be presented. The Review Committee would meet the following week for further discussion of the realignment of programmes to meet the financial limitations. A staff group had been set up to study the question of the location of the WCC headquarters. Discussions were under way with the Swiss authorities, particularly with a view of obtaining a more favourable status for the WCC and work permits for foreign administrative and secretarial staff. Staff had also worked on a pre-feasibility study of alternative locations.

Plans for the consultation with World Confessional Families, October 23-25, were well advanced. The Officers had appointed the following WCC representatives:

Dr T.B. Simatupang, Metropolitan Parthenios, Ms Betty Graham, Dr Hans-Otto Hahn, Ms Mercy Oduyoye, Bishop Samuel Ananda Rao. It was hoped that Archbishop Sundby or Dr Marshall would also attend. The staff attending would be the General Secretary, Dr Vischer and Mr Gill.

The General Secretary referred to the death of Pope Paul VI and the election of Pope John Paul I. Dr Potter had attended the installation of the new Pope, who had expressed great willingness to work together for unity.

At the UN Conference on Disarmament the WCC had been asked to make a submission to the special session of the UN and the General Secretary had addressed the meeting. This was the first time that Non-Governmental Organizations had been permitted to speak in UN sessions.

He then referred to the grant to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. The Executive Committee in August 1977 had set aside a sum of $85,000 for the struggle for racial justice and self-determination in Zimbabwe, and authorised the Officers to release this amount when the political situation in Zimbabwe had clarified. During his visit to Africa he had discussed the question with church leaders, heads of state and liberation movement representatives. This had been followed by discussion among the WCC Officers and by the PCR Commission, which unanimously recommended to the Officers that the grant be made to the Patriotic Front.

With regard to South Africa, the WCC had concentrated on establishing closer contacts with the South African Council of Churches. There had been consultations in Geneva with Bishop Tutu and discussions with both the AACC and donor agencies.

In the ensuing discussion, the importance of achieving better relations between the World Council and the Orthodox member churches was emphasized. It was suggested that ways be found to involve more church leaders in the life of the Council, while protecting the representation of laity, women and other groups in the decision-making bodies. Metropolitan Chrysostomos expressed appreciation for the visit of the Officers to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the opportunity to explain a number of Orthodox problems. The criticisms of the Church of Greece must be seen in the context of the total needs of Orthodoxy. He asked that a special committee be appointed to discuss these needs and report to the Central Committee. Archbishop Kirill stressed that the problems of the Orthodox had become particularly acute with the increase in WCC membership which gave the Orthodox a proportionally smaller representation.

His Holiness Karekin II expressed gratitude for the presence of the Officers in Lebanon at a time of great

suffering. The meeting had enhanced the image of the WCC and had drawn attention to the importance of the local churches in the life of the country. He stressed the importance of the WCC role in bringing together the divided communities in Lebanon.

A number of members raised questions about the grant to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, and in view of the reactions of some member churches and of the mass media, it was agreed to hold a special discussion on this matter at a later session.

3. REPORTS OF PROGRAMME UNITS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

A. Unit I: Faith and Witness

Dr Vischer reported on the activities of the Unit since February, indicating that Dialogue would be a special item on the agenda and that Dr Abrecht would report on the concerns of Church and Society.

Activities in the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism had centred around preparations for the World Conference in May 1980. A theological statement on the theme "Your Kingdom Come" was being distributed for discussion around the world and it was hoped to incorporate reactions in the preparatory material for the conference. Bible studies on the main theme and a collection of personal stories on missionary outreach were also being prepared. The list prepared by the Executive Committee of CWME giving names of 50% of the participants would be submitted to the Central Committee in Jamaica.

On behalf of the Programme on Theological Education Dr Vischer presented a report on the Consultation on Orthodox Theological Education held in Basel, 4-7 July. The meeting had provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views among Orthodox theologians. The Consultation had recommended that the report be forwarded to the heads of all Orthodox Churches and that similar meetings should become a regular feature of the Programme on Theological Education. At the annual meeting of PTE, 7-9 July, it had been suggested that the letter to all member churches about theological education, proposed by the Central Committee, be postponed to allow more time for regional meetings. The Commission meeting in 1979 would be connected with a consultation on ministerial formation.

Dr Vischer then reported on the meeting of the Commission on Faith and Order, held in Bangalore, India, 16-30 August. He paid tribute to Mr M.A. Thomas, Director of the Ecumenical Christian Centre in Bangalore, who had been responsible for organizing the meeting, including the arrangements for worship, and providing contacts in India. The meeting had been notable for the full participation of the Roman Catholic members, which had had an impact on its results, and for the contribution of a number of young people.

The two main tasks of the meeting had been to conclude the study on "Giving Account of the Hope that is within us" and to review the debate on the unity of the Church since the Nairobi Assembly. For the first of these topics the Commission had divided into ten groups, each discussing one of the preparatory papers on the subject, and after extensive discussion in plenary it had unanimously approved a statement entitled "A Common Account of Hope". Dr Vischer introduced this document, referring briefly to its main elements. In addition to contributing to this common statement, each group had the task of responding to one of the preparatory papers. On the basis of these responses correspondence would be initiated with the authors of the particular accounts in the various parts of the world.

With regard to the unity of the Church, the Commission proposed that in the next three years it should concentrate on the requirements for visible unity. These were identified as: i) agreement on the apostolic faith; ii) agreement on baptism, eucharist and ministry; iii) agreement on ways of teaching and decision making. One problem inherent in the search for consensus was noted: that the coming closer together of the majority of churches may constitute a threat to some WCC member churches, for instance those which do not practise sacraments.

There had been a strong emphasis in the meeting on "lived communion" such as that outlined in the study on "The Community of Women and Men in the Church". In preparation for the Bangalore meeting a discussion had been initiated with the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service on the implications of aid for the unity of the Church. The Commission considered the matter and recommended further contacts with CICARWS. An important discussion concerned the significance of new ecumenical experiences for the ecumenical movement. The Commission strongly urged the need for reviewing existing ecumenical structures, especially the role of councils.

Members of the Executive Committee expressed their gratitude for the report. In particular, they underlined the value of the document "A Common Account of Hope" and recommended that it be given wide circulation.

Dr Abrecht reported on the concerns of the Sub-unit on Church and Society. He presented plans for the programme, leadership and practical arrangements for the World Conference on "Faith, Science and the Future", to be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 12-24 July 1979, and for the five-day Science Students' Conference to be held prior to the major meeting.

Metropolitan Gregorios, enlarging on the four central themes of the World Conference, stressed that this was just one aspect of the emphasis on a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society. There were a number of comments

on the proposed plenary session on the Marxist perspective on science, technology, ideology and society. Dr McCloud asked whether there were not other, regional, perspectives which should also be considered. Bishop Antonie stressed that the Conference must avoid becoming a platform for political confrontation.

After discussion, the plans were referred to the Sub-Committee on Programme for further consideration.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II reported that the Programme Committee had considered the proportional distribution of delegates according to geographical regions as well as the formulation of topics suggested for plenary sessions. The Sub-Committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed:

i. to request the Officers and staff of the Working Group on Church and Society to revise the plans in the light of the discussion;

ii. to confirm the proposals regarding the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Presidium of the 1979 Conference.

Metropolitan Gregorios reported briefly on the programme "Energy for my Neighbour". There had been a favourable response in Europe and North America to this educational/ operational programme and some funds were likely to be generated. On behalf of the Church and Society Working Group he presented recommendations concerning the future of the programme but suggested that these be considered by the Officers of CICARWS and CCPD and that the final action be taken only at the Central Committee in Jamaica. The matter was referred to the Sub-Committee on Programme.

At a later session, Catholicos Karekin, on behalf of the Programme Committee, recommended that the Executive Committee receive the report for information, encouraging action along the lines indicated and expecting a full report to be brought to the Central Committee in January 1979 through the Committee on Programme Unit I. This was agreed.

Metropolitan Gregorios also presented a report on the present stage of the ecumenical debate on nuclear energy. A Consultation held at Bossey in May 1978 to consider questions raised by the churches about nuclear energy had brought together a group of highly competent experts and a number of young people protesting not only against the use of nuclear energy but also against the way society was moving in the industrial world.

The Programme Sub-Committee was asked to consider how this question should be brought to the Central Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Programme Committee, recommended that the Executive

Committee receive the reports on nuclear energy for information, expecting that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Central Committee through the Committee on Programme Unit I, and recognising that the 1979 Conference would continue the debate with the possibility of further recommendations being brought to the Central Committee in 1980. This was agreed.

B. Unit II: Justice and Service

Mr Itty presented brief reports on each of the sub-units in Unit II. The main concerns of the Christian Medical Commission in recent months had been the action/reflection programme regarding the Christian understanding of health, healing and wholeness; the promotion of innovative programmes in the field of primary health care and assisting coordinated agencies at national level to enable the churches' efforts in the field of health care to be more effective. The Commission's magazine "Contact" helped the sharing of ideas among churches and medical personnel in the constituency.

The Programme to Combat Racism was at present engaged in three major issues: racism in children's books - a consultation would be held in October in the FRG; racial issues in Asia - a regional consultation would be held, in cooperation with the Christian Conference of Asia, in New Zealand in November; and the question of land rights of racially oppressed groups - initially this study was being conducted in Brazil and in Australia.

Four areas of concern had occupied the attention of CCIA in recent months: situations of international conflict and tension such as Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East; work with the United Nations, which would be helped by the presence of Mr Epps in the New York Office; issues related to human rights; and the programme on Militarism and Disarmament. A consultation on Disarmament had been held in April.

The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service had held an excellent meeting in Strasbourg in July. The issues discussed included the theme, "Does service unite?"; the conditions under which churches should accept government funds; the use of EEC surplus food; the ecumenical sharing of resources, and the revision of the project system. A number of regional consultations were planned, including one with Orthodox churches on how they could best play their part in the service programme.

The Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development had also met in July, in Sofia. An evaluation of the total work of CCPD in the last seven years by a group of Commissioners had been discussed. The Commission had also considered the way in which the development challenge was seen and responded to by churches in Socialist countries;

issues on political economy and ethics; and the study on "The Church and the Poor". The second volume of the study on "The Church and the Poor" had just been published and the third volume was being prepared at a workshop meeting in Cyprus.

Mr Itty referred to the increasing number of people's movements working for their own basic rights and social justice and the emergence of new ecclesial communities in the context of the struggle for justice and asked how the WCC could relate to such groups. He also pointed out that the whole area of "political ethics" was becoming an urgent theological issue requiring ecumenical attention.

C. Unit III: Education and Renewal

Miss Bam reported on the meetings of the sub-unit Working Groups held at Stony Point, USA, in September. She first referred to Youth concerns and in particular to recent meetings involving young people. Following the Youth Consultation on "Christian Witness for Social Justice" in 1977, there had been a Students' Course at Bossey on "Christian Vigilance and Solidarity in Six Continents" which had shown particular interest in the whole area of worship, and a consultation in Cyprus for young people from the Middle East. A number of young people had also participated in the Faith and Order Commission meeting in Bangalore. The meeting of the sub-unit at Stony Point had affirmed the activities of World Youth Projects and youth camps. The major programme proposal was a World Youth Assembly in 1981, with regional preparatory meetings in 1979 and 1980. These preparatory meetings should include workshops on worship and there should also be several work camps in Socialist countries, where young Christians could work, discuss and learn with the young church members there.

The Education sub-unit now comprised a team of six executive staff, working on a variety of programmes. Dr Weber was working on Bible seminars and new methods of presenting the Bible. Dr Masamba, the staff member for Family Ministries, was planning new programmes in the area of marriage counselling. Prof. Freire was concentrating on adult literacy programmes in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. The new staff member for the Programme on Church-Sponsored Schools, Miss Atsede Kahssay, had recently taken up her post. With regard to Scholarships, faced with a financial crisis the Sub-Unit Working Group recommended that the scholarship programmes of the WCC should be reviewed together. This would include the Programme for Theological Education, CICARWS and Unit III, with a view to coordinating and achieving greater economy and efficiency. The first of a series of workshops on racism in textbooks, being sponsored jointly by this sub-unit and the Programme to Combat Racism, would be held in the Federal Republic of Germany on 13-18 October.

The Sub-unit on Women, in close cooperation with the Family Ministries Desk, would be holding a consultation on "Human Relations and Sexual Identity" on 15-18 November 1978. This consultation would look at: a) family life and new patterns of living - nuclear or extended families, married couples, single life, communities; b) women and men at work - legal issues, styles of work, theology of work, inter-relations of work and family, dependency. It was felt that the Church could make a distinctive contribution.

The Sub-unit had held a consultation for young women studying theology, who had shown great interest in the theology of liberation and a feminist theology.

In discussion Bishop Antonie emphasized that Unit III had no mandate for official theological discussion on the issue of ordination of women. The General Secretary pointed out that the issue of ordination had been on the agenda of the WCC since its inception in 1948, but there had never been any attempt to put pressure on churches on this issue. He added that at the Consultation for Women Theology Students the subject of ordination was discussed but it was not the main theme of the consultation. Archbishop Scott reminded the Committee that in Nairobi it had been agreed that the subject of ordination should continue to be studied and discussed in relation to the full participation of women in the life of the Church, including ordained ministries, according to the measure of their gifts.

Miss Bam reported on the work of the Sub-unit on Renewal and Congregational Life and made special mention of the Congregational Self-Study which had been initiated in 1977 in cooperation with CWME, as well as the consultation in Crete, April 1978, on "The Worship of the Congregation", and the plans to hold regional workshops on this theme.

Dr McCloud reported on the programmes initiated in Stony Point on Spirituality and Charismatic Renewal. Plans were being made for a consultation to clarify understanding of the charismatic renewal and its meaning for the churches and to study the responses of the churches to this renewal.

Mrs Sampath stressed the importance of the programme for the International Year of the Child. She also urged that the next Assembly give major attention to education questions.

D. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

a. Ecumenical Institute, Bossey

Dr Hertz reported that administrative reorganization had taken place and was working well. The reorganization had made it possible better to determine and control costs. The Endowment Fund was growing at a good rate. A new

convention with the University of Geneva had been signed in May, strengthening Bossey's standing. Enrolment for the 1979/80 Graduate School was good, although some churches and geographical areas were under-represented. A strengthened field work programme was planned. All summer courses in 1979 would have co-sponsors. Bossey was renewing its vision as a place preparing leadership for the future. This contribution remained significant for the development of the global community.

b. Department of Communication

Mr Hilke reported on the meeting of the Working Group on Communication in Glion, March 1-10, which had faced two main problems: i) under the theme "Partiality and Objectivity", they had considered widespread accusations of "one-sidedness" levelled against the WCC that it is unbalanced both in its decisions and the way they are communicated; ii) the Group had tried to respond to the request of the Executive Committee for a reduced budget in 1979, which had raised a number of basic questions about priorities. The Department had to determine whether it could maintain in a balanced way its services to WCC departments, to the churches and to the news media, and its multi-media approach through radio/TV, film and visual arts, news, periodicals and books. Mr Hilke also reported briefly on the work of the staff group under the chairmanship of Dr Raiser which coordinated the communication work of all sub-units. The group had been following up the report to the last Central Committee on periodicals. Mr Hilke also mentioned negotiations in various parts of the world for the translation of ecumenical material and for regional ecumenical news services in Latin America and Africa.

E. NEW YORK OFFICE

Dr Bridston spoke briefly about the New York Office and its work of liaison between the headquarters in Geneva and the American churches. The recent experience of dealing with enquiries and protests about the grant to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe had revealed a deep lack of understanding not only of the problems of Africa but also of the nature and purpose of the World Council itself. People found it difficult to grasp that the ecumenical movement was created both on the basis of agreement and because the churches wanted to face together their disagreements. He saw the fundamental task of his Office as long-range ecumenical education to bring the American churches out of their isolation.

4. DIALOGUE IN COMMUNITY

Dr Samartha presented a paper on "Dialogue in Community" prepared by the DFI Working Group which was to be submitted

to the Central Committee in Jamaica. Parts I (On Community) and II (On Dialogue) had already been received by the Central Committee in 1977 and commended to the churches. Part III (Guidelines) had been adopted by the Working Group on Dialogue at its meeting held in Trinidad in May 1978. The Working Group had emphasized that the three parts of the document should be read as a whole. Dr Samartha pointed out that the document was based on the lessons learned and insights gained during the past several years of actual experience in dialogue. The Guidelines were set out under three headings: Learning and Understanding in Dialogue; Sharing and Living Together in Dialogue; Planning for Dialogue.

Several members participated in the discussion that followed. Dr Kang gave information about dialogue in Korea and emphasized that in all dialogues the question of power in its political and social aspects should be kept in mind. Catholicos Karekin said that although in many parts of the world dialogues can be planned together, in some places, for example the Middle East, willingness to enter into dialogue has changed or diminished. Metropolitan Chrysostomos and Archbishop Kirill mentioned that the word "Community" may create difficulties in their respective situations, either because of historical, linguistic or ecclesiological implications.

In his response, Dr Samartha pointed out that the present document represented a certain stage in an ongoing process. The suggested Guidelines needed to be tested in different contexts, recognizing that not every Guideline may be applicable to all situations.

The document was referred to the Sub-Committee on Programme.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II reported that, having reviewed the discussion on the Statement and Guidelines on "Dialogue in Community" and recalling that the Statement (Parts I and II) had already been received by the Central Committee in August 1977 and "commended to the churches for study and response", the Programme Committee recommended:

i. that the proposed Guidelines together with the longer statement be sent to members of Central Committee in advance of the meeting in January 1979;

ii. that the mailing also include the "Interim Guidelines" adopted by the Central Committee at Addis Ababa 1971, a memorandum summarizing the comments received from the churches on the statement on "Dialogue in Community" as well as the discussion on the Guidelines since their adoption by the DFI Working Group in May 1978;

iii. that a covering letter explain the status of these documents as well as the procedure and action expected from the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

5. JUST, PARTICIPATORY AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Dr Raiser referred to the preliminary report of the JPSS Advisory Committee which had been presented to the last meeting of the Executive Committee and had subsequently been widely shared with WCC commissions and working groups, regional ecumenical bodies and major world Christian organizations. On the basis of comments received from these groups, an annotated agenda and a dossier with regional comments was prepared for the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on 11-15 September. This meeting had had three major foci: i) theological reflection, introduced by Bible studies, on the three major concepts of Justice, Participation and Sustainability; ii) discussion on regional insights and activities; iii) an attempt to sharpen the focus of the programme emphasis, providing guidance for WCC activities following the Central Committee in 1979. The first draft of the report was almost complete.

Prof. Miguez Bonino commented on the highlights in the discussion. The Committee had looked at the concepts of Justice, Participation and Sustainability in the theological perspective of the Kingdom of God and had tried to articulate more clearly their understanding of the Kingdom and its bearing on their understanding of the Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society. Their understanding of the Kingdom's relation to the universal creation led them to stress the solidarity of all mankind and the inter-relatedness of Justice, Participation and Sustainability. They had discussed the relation of the Church and power, defining power in terms of solidarity as well as authority, affirming that the Church does not seek to exercise secular power but, on the other hand, acts as a power-generating community within society. They had recognized that the achievement of the Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society is not the concern of Christians only, but is a common struggle in which Christians must engage with others in striving to achieve justice. The discussion had shown the need for a new study of political ethics. It had been decided to prepare a popular booklet on some of these concerns for use at congregational level and it was hoped that a draft proposal would be available by the time of the Central Committee. In reply to a question, Dr Raiser indicated that the contributions from the regions and other ecumenical bodies might be edited and made more widely available.

Bishop Hempel stressed the need for concreteness in political terms and for concentration in the study on some specific aspects. For his own church the question of

political ethics was particularly important. Prof. Barkat was grateful for the concern with structures of power. The Church as an institution of power should be studied seriously. Dr Kang asked how we could realise the power of solidarity without the power of authority.

Dr Raiser commented on the considerable progress made towards the mutual inter-penetration of WCC programmes. The Advisory Committee had, however, found it difficult to make recommendations for programme reorganization, but considered its work as preparatory to that of the Review Committee.

At a later session His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, recommended that the Executive Committee, having heard the report on the work of the Advisory Committee on the Search for a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society (JPSS), receive the report for information, expecting a full submission to be made to the Central Committee along the lines indicated, at the meeting in January 1979. This was agreed.

6. RELATIONS WITH ROMAN CATHOLICS

Dr Vischer referred to the discussion at the last meeting of the Executive Committee and spoke of the new situation since the death of Pope Paul VI. He compared the funeral of Pope John XXIII and that of Pope Paul; while there had been almost no ecumenical representation at the funeral of Pope John XXIII, the funeral of Pope Paul was an ecumenical event. The change was due to the ecumenical outreach of the Roman Catholic Church under Pope Paul VI and the shift in the understanding of papacy both within the Roman Catholic Church and in relation to other churches. It was difficult to evaluate the new situation after the election of Pope John Paul I, but it was possible to enumerate the "open questions". Dr Vischer mentioned the following: a) the new Pope had emphasized "collegiality"; the relationship with the bishops all over the world will be a central issue in the coming years. What shape would it be given? b) An Italian cardinal had been chosen. What role was he going to play within the Italian Catholic Church and with regard to the Italian political scene? c) How was he going to deal with the conservative forces in the Roman Catholic Church? d) The new Pope had no experience in international affairs. Who was going to provide the leadership in that field?

Since February discussion in the Joint Working Group had centred on the joint report to be presented at the time of the Central Committee in January 1979. The meeting of the Group's Executive in April had prepared a draft and all members of the Group had been asked for reactions. The document would be finalized at the meeting of the Executive Group of the Joint Working Group in December.

The draft first reviewed activities since 1975, with sections on unity, common witness and SODEPAX. The document then presented some reflections on relationships between the WCC and Roman Catholic Church, raising questions about the next stage in relationships; the issues of reciprocity; the question of needs at the local level, particularly that of communication, and the need for further reflection on the meaning of Roman Catholic membership in Councils.

Dr Vischer stressed that in presenting the report to Central Committee it would be essential to make clear that the WCC was not an association of non-Roman Catholic churches but sought to speak and act with a view to the whole Christian community. He referred to staff discussions since February. It was felt that the WCC should do as much as possible within and under cover of the Joint Working Group, and the other structured relationships which had come into existence in the past years, e.g. the Faith and Order Commission. The WCC would also, however, initiate activities with Roman Catholics on its own terms, such as the proposed analytical study of statements on social ethics issued by the Roman Catholic Church on the one hand and the WCC on the other. The WCC should also take up some programme issues, e.g. human rights, with certain national Bishops' Conferences, where concern was often greater than at international level.

In discussion the importance of developments on the local level and of the need for reciprocity were emphasized, and the question of the value of bilateral discussions with the Roman Catholic Church was raised. Bilateral statements were often not taken up by the communions concerned. The need to find ways for the WCC to participate in the work of the Roman Catholic Church was stressed. Some members underlined that, since the WCC was not a church, much theological dialogue must be bilateral but there could be more cooperation on the practical level.

The General Secretary referred to Dr Vischer's statement that the WCC should seek to speak with a view to the whole Christian community and pointed out that many documents emerging from the Second Vatican Council were influenced by what had gone on in the ecumenical movement and the WCC. Dr Vischer pointed to the problem which arose when the Roman Catholic Church, as a non-member church, increasingly participated in WCC activities without offering reciprocity. The question of the difference which membership makes should be put to the Roman Catholic Church. With regard to bilateral conversations, he said that the problem of the reception of the results was now arising. This process must be multilateral and this would give the WCC a new opportunity to be of service at the local level. This matter would be discussed in the conversations with World Confessional Families in October.

The Executive Committee agreed that the report of the Joint Working Group to the Central Committee in January 1979 should be prepared along the lines of the draft presented to the Executive Committee.

7. SODEPAX

Mr Itty reported briefly on the programme plans for SODEPAX proposed at an informal meeting of representatives of the WCC and of the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace in September.

The Executive Committee noted that the programme proposals for SODEPAX during the coming period included the following:

a. Liaison function between the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace and the WCC Programme Unit Justice and Service on such common issues as: New International Economic Order; Search for new life styles; Human Rights; Disarmament.

   It was understood that the liaison function would entail exchange of insights and information, identification of convergence and divergence of perceptions and programmes, and organizing occasional discussions on these matters between the two parent bodies.

b. Preparation of case studies of ecumenical cooperation at national or regional levels in the fields of development, justice and peace, and communicating the lessons learned to the parent bodies and their constituencies. To begin with, the following countries or regions were being considered: Canada, Malawi, Netherlands, Pacific.

c. Publication of "Church Alert" four times a year.

The Executive Committee asked the SODEPAX Committee to prepare the budgetary requirements and financial arrangements, and to present them along with the programme plans to the Unit and Central Committees in Jamaica in January 1979.

8. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. Middle East

Mr Niilus presented some background information on the area and also referred to the results of the Camp David Summit meeting which had just ended. He spoke of his visit with Mr Weingärtner to the Holy Land in May when they had seen something of the process of de-Christianization in Israel, Jerusalem and the occupied territories. There was a disturbing trend in the area towards

fragmentation into sovereign or semi-sovereign communities based exclusively on ethnic and/or religious characteristics. Mr Niilus stressed the need for Christians all round the world to support the churches in the Middle East. In reply to a question from Archbishop Sundby, he said that the new legislation regarding Christian witness in Israel was now in force and that the three Patriarchates in Jerusalem had protested strongly to the President of Israel, but had not received a satisfactory answer. Metropolitan Chrysostomos stressed the importance of this question particularly for the Orthodox churches.

After discussion of a possible statement on the Middle East, it was agreed that the following group should meet with the CCIA staff to review the whole situation and advise on possible action: His Holiness Karekin II (convenor), Archbishop Sundby, Metropolitan Chrysostomos, Metropolitan Gregorios and Dr Marshall.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the group, proposed that instead of issuing a public statement through the media, the Executive Committee should express its ecumenical solidarity with the churches in the area by two actions. He presented the following recommendations, which were adopted:

> In view of the crucial developments in the Middle East which cause great anxiety and the deep concern expressed at this meeting of the Executive Committee about issues related to the life and witness of Christian churches in the region,
>
> (i) the General Secretary and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs are requested to share with member churches of the WCC and national councils affiliated to it, before the Central Committee meeting in January 1979, stated positions of the WCC regarding the Middle East, information on recent developments and involvements of the WCC in the region;
>
> (ii) the General Secretary is also requested to arrange an ecumenical team, in consultation with the Middle East Council of Churches, to visit Lebanon and Syria in the immediate future, to express solidarity with member churches and for appropriate consultations with other churches, religious groups, political organizations and state authorities.

B. Southern Africa

Mr Sjollema presented notes on the situation in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. He referred to the recent study undertaken by the South African Council of Churches on the issue of investments which had clearly vindicated

the stated positions of the WCC. He reminded the Committee of the importance of Walvis Bay to Namibia, and reported on the latest events in Zimbabwe where there was large-scale recruitment of mercenaries to fight the guerillas and the government had decided to conscript blacks into the army on the same basis as whites.

After discussion, it was agreed that the General Secretary should send a fraternal letter to the South African Council of Churches, commending them for their study on investments in South Africa and expressing continued solidarity with them.

It was also agreed that a group consisting of Dr McCloud (convenor), Mr Bena-Silu and Miss Webb, in consultation with Dr Marshall, should work on a possible statement on Southern Africa.

At a later session Dr McCloud, on behalf of the group, presented a draft statement on Namibia. After some amendment, it was agreed to adopt the revised statement as follows:

> The essential conditions for a Namibia settlement were re-stated by the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 1978. They are: that the military and police forces of South Africa be withdrawn in favour of a temporary international peace-keeping force under the auspices of the United Nations; that Walvis Bay be retained as an integral part of the territory of independent Namibia, and that free elections be held under the supervision and control of the United Nations.
>
> The Executive Committee meeting in September 1978 in Helsinki, Finland, therefore
>
> > welcomes the United Nations plan for Namibian independence as outlined in the UN Secretary General's report to the Security Council, and
> >
> > urges the UN Secretary General and the Security Council to take immediate steps for the implementation of the plan.
>
> In view of the political, strategic and economic significance of the Walvis Bay, the UN should ensure that it is an integral part of Namibia when Namibia attains independence.
>
> The Executive Committee
>
> > appeals to the Western nations which initiated the plan to extend full support to the UN in its implementation and to take appropriate action including economic sanctions against South Africa, if South Africa proceeds unilaterally to hold elections under its own auspices.
>
> It reaffirms its solidarity with the churches and the people of Namibia in this crucial period of their history and calls upon member churches to support them in all possible ways.

C. Horn of Africa

Mr Koshy gave some background information on the Horn of Africa and Mr Fischer spoke of the activities of CICARWS in assisting people in Eritrea, Asmara and Sudan.

9. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

A. 1977 Grant to Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe

The General Secretary referred to the process which led to the release of the grant and explained that in making their decision the Officers recognized that the internal settlement left the illegal white minority régime still in effective control and gave it a veto over real change for the next decade. It did not provide for "one man, one vote" and its specially entrenched constitutional provisions meant that whites would retain control of the key areas of the society, including the security forces, the judiciary and the public services.

Dr Potter spoke of reactions to the grant and in particular of the suspension of membership of the WCC by the Salvation Army. He had met Salvation Army leaders and a consultation on this problem and a wider range of issues related to the Salvation Army's international and non-sacramental character would be held later in the year.

In the extensive discussion which followed, members of the Executive Committee stressed that they fully accepted the right of the Officers to act in this matter; some, however, questioned the timing of the announcement in view of the political situation in Zimbabwe and of the meeting of the Executive Committee within a few weeks.

Most speakers stressed the importance of achieving better communication with the members of the Executive and Central Committees and with the member churches. It was important that they be informed about such actions at the same time as, or even prior to, their general announcement to the press, and that they receive full background information on the reasons for a particular political stand in such a complex situation, in order adequately to answer questions from their constituency and the mass media. Some members spoke of the misunderstanding and negative reactions to the grant in their own church and country; others, particularly from the Third World, reported on the enthusiasm with which the news of the grant had been received and felt that it had helped to restore the credibility of the Church in countries which had suffered from Western colonialism. Although better communication would help the image of the WCC, the selectivity of the media had to be reckoned with.

It was pointed out that some decisions taken by the Executive Committee did not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the constituency and there was need to preserve the unity of the churches.

Bishop Harms spoke of the position in the German Federal Republic where many Christians found it difficult to understand the decision and two churches were even considering withdrawal from the WCC. He wondered whether the WCC was not usurping too much authority at this point and reminded the Committee that the whole question of violence had not yet been resolved within the WCC.

Miss Webb emphasized that the grant was in accordance with the criteria of the Special Fund. The money was to be used for humanitarian purposes but the grant was not to be understood only in humanitarian terms but as a symbol of solidarity with people who were opposing racism. However, a symbol ought to be seen in perspective and she wished other symbols could be found to draw attention to other parts of the WCC's work.

Some Committee members suggested that it was time for a new strategy to be worked out for giving money to those struggling for racial justice.

After further discussion, it was agreed to ask the group working on African questions to consider a possible statement on the grant to the Patriotic Front.

At a later session, Dr McCloud, on behalf of the group, presented a proposed statement to the churches. After discussion and some amendment, it was agreed that the following statement should be sent to all member churches as soon as possible, together with the criteria for the Special Fund. Bishop Harms voted against this proposal.

> The Central Committee in August 1977 stated that the pursuit of a so-called internal settlement by the illegal minority régime of Rhodesia and its announcement of a date for an election were manoeuvres to disguise its determination to retain the initiative. The Central Committee reaffirmed its call "to member churches to intensify their efforts to mobilise public opinion in favour of the liberation of Zimbabwe and to extend to the people of Zimbabwe all the moral, political and humanitarian assistance in their struggle for the realisation of their right to self-determination and independence".
>
> The meeting of the Executive Committee in August 1977 set aside an amount of US $85,000 for the struggle for racial justice and self-determination in Zimbabwe, authorising the WCC Officers to release this amount from the Special Fund of the Programme to Combat Racism. In August 1978 the grant was released to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe by the Officers.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in September 1978 in Helsinki, Finland, there was discussion on this action because of the widespread misinterpretation arising from press reports and inadequate information. The Officers provided the Committee with full information. about consultation processes that led to the decision and the timing of the release of the grant. The Patriotic Front qualified for the grant according to the criteria for the Special Fund. Two other black groups in Rhodesia had joined the internal settlement with the illegal régime and had agreed to the control by the white minority in such key areas as the military, judiciary and public services and through veto power. The grant was made for specified humanitarian programmes of the Patriotic Front.

The Executive Committee further noted that the CICARWS (Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service) of the WCC has been acting as a channel for resources from churches and agencies to support humanitarian programmes within Rhodesia through the Christian Council and Christian Care.

The Executive Committee endorsed the decision of the Officers to release the grant to the Patriotic Front.

B. <u>1978 Grants</u>

Mr Sjollema presented the recommendations of the PCR Executive Group for grants from the Special Fund. A total of 55 applications had been received in 1978 and after careful scrutiny 31 were recommended for approval. Full documentation on each organization had been given to the Executive Committee. Mr Sjollema referred to the discussion by the Executive Group of problems connected with a possible further grant to the Patriotic Front in view of recent developments in Zimbabwe and within the Patriotic Front itself. A memorandum setting out arguments in favour of and against the making of such a grant was discussed and <u>received</u> for information.

After discussion, the Executive Committee <u>agreed</u>:

i. to postpone action on one proposed grant until its meeting in December 1978;

ii. not to approve one other proposed grant;

iii. to approve all other proposed grants in the total amount of $434,500. (Appendix III)

Bishop Harms voted against the grant to the two organizations in the German Federal Republic.

10. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Miss Skuse presented the report of the Nominations Sub-Committee.

A. Joint staff appointments with regional ecumenical bodies

The Sub-Committee had received a progress report regarding the possibility of making joint staff appointments with the regions. While expressing appreciation for some clarification reached on the matter, the Sub-Committee felt that the process of consultation with regional bodies should be pursued, expecting clearer reactions to be available by the time of the Central Committee. It further proposed that the matter be included in the agenda of regional meetings during the session of the Central Committee at Jamaica, placing it in the wider context of discussions about the nature of relationships between the WCC and the regional bodies. As a preliminary measure the Sub-Committee reaffirmed the need for mutual consultation between the WCC and any one of the regional bodies in the case of staff appointments which were of immediate concern for either side.

B. Proportional representation of confessions and regions on WCC commissions and working groups

The Sub-Committee had received a staff paper on "Proportional representation in WCC commissions and working groups". It had considered some of the questions arising from the information provided by the staff paper. The Survey was accepted as a useful guide for reviewing the membership of commissions and working groups. While recognising that any substantial changes in the proportional representation could only be made in connection with decisions about the composition of the Sixth Assembly, the Sub-Committee recommended:

i. to correct present imbalances as existing vacancies in the membership are filled;

ii. to begin well in advance of the next Assembly with identifying persons who could be considered for membership in commissions and working groups.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

C. Membership of Central Committee, commissions and working groups

The Executive Committee considered nominations to fill vacant places on the Central Committee as well as on several commissions and working groups, in particular Church and Society, PTE, CMC, CCIA and PCR. The proposals made by the respective sub-units were received and it was agreed to recommend them to the Central Committee for final action.

D. Reappointment of sub-unit officers

Recognising that the term of office of the officers of sub-unit commissions and working groups appointed by the Central Committee in August 1976 comes to an end in January 1979, the Executive Committee considered a procedure for review in order to enable the Central Committee to take final action at its next meeting regarding the reappointment of such officers, in addition to the reappointment of the total membership of the commissions and working groups. The Committee asked the Officers to oversee this process and to ensure that nominations for sub-unit officers for the period beginning in January 1979 be brought to its next meeting.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Nominations Sub-Committee.

11. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

In addition to the recommendations noted under previous headings, His Holiness Karekin reported that the Programme Committee had also discussed the following items:

A. Style of reporting on work of Programme Units

The Programme Committee wanted to express some concern regarding the style of reporting about the work of Programme Units to the Executive Committee. In considering this matter with a view to the agenda of future meetings, particular attention should be given to:

a. the balance between reports from the Units;

b. the relationship between reporting and time for discussion;

c. a format of reports which clearly indicates the actions expected from the Executive Committee and relates information to such recommendations for action.

The Executive Committee noted these guidelines for future meetings.

B. Review Committee

Having reviewed the mandate of the Review Committee as confirmed by the Executive Committee in February 1978, the Programme Committee made the following observations. The Review Committee should:

a. give special attention to the follow-up process particularly of study programmes, in order to help the member churches in making the programmes of the WCC part of their life;

b. formulate clear emphases for future activities which express a common vision and at the same time help to overcome duplications.

In the light of the qualitative changes that have occurred regarding the financial situation of the WCC, the Programme Committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed, that:

i. the Review Committee continue its work during the Central Committee meeting in Jamaica, and in particular that a joint meeting with the Finance Committee be envisaged;

ii. the agenda and timetable of the Central Committee be adapted where necessary;

iii. the mandate of the Review Committee be understood to include consideration of appropriate ways and procedures for dealing with the implications of the new financial situation for the working structure of the WCC including the necessary realignment and consolidation of programmes.

C. Relationships with Orthodox member churches

Considering the problems referred to in the General Secretary's report on the visit paid by the Officers of the WCC to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople and to the Church of Greece, in May 1978, and taking into account the points raised and the views expressed particularly by the Orthodox members of the Executive Committee, the Programme Committee recommended, and the Executive Committee agreed, that:

i. the General Secretary call for a special meeting with the Orthodox members of the Central Committee, together with the Officers of the Council, to consider the issues raised by the Orthodox churches on the basis of an agenda to be set with the Orthodox members of the Executive Committee at the Central Committee meeting in Jamaica;

ii. an information paper be prepared by the General Secretary indicating in statistical terms the presence of Orthodox churches over the last ten years in (a) the membership of the World Council of Churches, (b) the Unit Committees and Sub-Unit Commissions and Working Groups, (c) on the level of staff;

iii. the specific points raised by the Church of Greece as reported by the General Secretary be considered further at a meeting with the authorities of the Church of Greece prior to the Central Committee meeting in Jamaica.

12. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Marshall presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee as follows:

1977 Financial Report

Copies of the printed 1977 Financial Report were circulated to members of the Executive Committee in August.

The draft balance sheet and accounts were considered at a meeting of the Audit Committee in June, when the auditors were present and when both the figures and the method of presentation were examined in detail. A number of changes were made as a result of decisions made by the Audit Committee; in particular, the form of the new statements showing changes in fund balances, provisions and reserves, was agreed.

The Finance Committee noted that the accounts were, for the first time, expressed in a single currency, namely Swiss francs, and that comparative figures for the previous year were shown in the balance sheet.

The year 1977 was a difficult one due to the serious fall in the value of the US dollar against the Swiss franc and, to a lesser degree, the fall in the German mark. Fortunately an increase in the contributions of member churches, which included the late receipt of some 1976 contributions, and underspending in some departments, largely due to delaying appointments of approved staff, more than offset the effect of the appreciation of the Swiss franc. As a result, a surplus of Sfr 701,639.30 was transferred to Special Reserve, increasing the balance of that Reserve to Sfr 948,450. Fund Balances shown in the balance sheet decreased in terms of Swiss francs by almost Sfr 10 million due to the necessary translation of US dollar balances into Swiss francs, but the amount of Provisions and Reserves was relatively unchanged.

The Finance Committee recommends the adoption of 1977 Financial Report and Accounts, as presented and as audited by the World Council's auditors, Touche Ross & Co. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

1978 Accounts

It is too early to forecast with confidence the results of the 1978 operating year.

From the monthly statements produced under the new computer system it is possible to monitor operating expenditure more accurately than in previous years and it appears that, again due partly to later appointment of staff than envisaged in approved budgets, there could be underspending on salaries and related costs. Income appears likely to

be at about the expected level in both Central Church Treasuries and for operating programmes. On a "current account" basis, using WCC "fixed" exchange rates, it is anticipated that a small surplus will emerge in the General (CCT) Budget. This surplus might amount to Sfr 200,000 but could be marginally higher, depending on the timing of receipts still expected.

Rates of exchange are still playing a significant role in the finances of all international organizations. The total average appreciation of the Swiss franc against all the currencies received by the WCC in the period of twelve months to August 1978 was in excess of 32%.

The WCC operates its accounts on the basis of fixed exchange rates which in 1978 were established at 1 US $ = 2 Sfr, and 1 DM = 1 Sfr. Actual conversion operations, carried out at different exchange rates from the "fixed" rates, create a loss (or a profit) on exchange which is eventually reflected in changes in the balance of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve. During the first seven months of 1978, Swiss francs were purchased at rates above (in some cases, well above) the present levels and the loss on exchange was limited to a total of Sfr 660,000. It is, however, to be expected that, as the need to buy Swiss francs arises during the remainder of 1978, exchange losses will be incurred at a much higher rate, and the additional strain on the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve could amount to as much as Sfr 1.2 million in this period, reducing the balance of Reserve to below Sfr 1 million less than 4% of the total operating budget. The actual year-end balance Balance of the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve will be determined only after a revaluation of currency assets and liabilities at 31st December at the then prevailing rates of exchange.

To summarize the likely outcome of 1978, we are expecting:

- A <u>surplus</u> of Sfr 200,000, which would increase the Special (i.e. operating) Reserve to <u>Sfr 1,148,450</u>

- A <u>deficit</u> of approximately Sfr 1,800,000 on exchange which would reduce the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve to <u>below Sfr 1 million</u>

Fund balances of most sub-units seem likely to increase rather than decrease at the end of 1978 in terms of the currency in which they are held. Currency translation will inevitably reduce the balances when expressed in Swiss francs, assuming that present exchange rates do not improve to a substantial degree before the year end.

Some member churches are discussing the possibility of making special grants to counter the effect of the depreciation of other currencies against the Swiss franc. The Committee is most grateful for these efforts.

In view of the uncertainties which exist over the final outcome of 1978, it is recommended that no action in relation to the level of Reserves be taken until the next Executive Committee meeting.

1979 Budget

The consolidated 1979 Budget is presented to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval. (Appendix IV)

Before commenting on the figures in detail, the attention of the Executive Committee is drawn to the fixed exchange rates recommended by the Investment Advisory Group for use by the WCC in 1979. They are:

1 US $ = Sfr 1.60 1 DM = Sfr 0.80

Other exchange rates will be fixed in relation to these rates.

It will be seen that the total expenses budgeted for 1979 amount to Sfr 29,544,765 - some 2% lower than the reduced 1978 budget.

The amount required from Central Church Treasuries in 1979 is Sfr 5,800,000 against Sfr 5,834,657 in 1978. The projected income, based on the recommended 1979 fixed exchange rates is Sfr 4,533,000, including earned interest, leaving a deficit of Sfr 1,267,000 against a surplus of Sfr 701,639.30 in 1977 and an anticipated surplus of Sfr 200,000 in 1978. The budget anticipates that the transfer from Fund Balances will total Sfr 2,375,060 in 1979.

The total budgeted deficit in 1979 therefore amounts to Sfr 3,642,060 (CCT Sfr 1,267,000 + Sfr 2,375,060).

Comment on 1979 Proposed Budget

At the meeting held in February 1978 a recommendation was accepted that 1979 budgets should be prepared on both a 90% and an 80% level of the reduced 1978 budget. This recommendation was made on the basis of anticipated exchange rates of 1 US $ = Sfr 1.75 and 1 DM = Sfr 0.90. In fact, exchange rates have fallen well below these levels. Moreover, a closer examination of the situation following the February meeting made it clear that some departments could continue to operate on a 100% basis if they were allowed to call on operating balances held on their behalf, and doing so would create a situation in which it would be extremely difficult to impose substantially reduced budget levels on other programme areas without creating an imbalance in the Council's operations as a whole.

In writing to Heads of Departments and Sub-Units in July

1978 the Moderator, Archbishop Scott, nevertheless requested all parts of the WCC to produce 1979 budgets at 100% and 90% levels (the 80% level seemed unrealistic at that time due to temporarily improved exchange rates), asking them, if they were unable to operate at a 90% level, to show the minimum level at which they could function, and to indicate their priorities if a 90% or lower level had to be imposed. All officials have attempted to comply with the Moderator's request for minimum operating budgets but have found it difficult to projet priorities in isolation in view of inter-department transfers to support mutually shared programmes. Reductions offered on the 1979 budget figures as presented would amount to no more than 3% or 4% of the total budget and would have insufficient effect on the deficits projected.

Proposed solution to the problem of the 1979 Budget

If a viable solution is to be found to the immediate problem of the 1979 budget it should be appreciated that:

1. The problem is no longer limited to sub-units and departments dependent on Central Church Treasuries (CCT). Even though, in some cases of sub-units needing to draw on programme balances, the amount required in 1979 would represent an acceptable percentage withdrawal of those balances, a continuation of the policy would create increasing problems if no action were taken to reinstate a balanced budget for these sub-units within the foreseeable future.

2. There is no practical way of dealing with the 1979 deficit so as to ensure that the full deficit is covered completely in that year, other than by an increase in income from member churches, which is beyond reasonable expectations.

3. It seems doubtful whether exchange rates will stabilise in 1979. Some economists forecast a slightly stronger dollar but others expect a further deterioration. Our own advisers are extremely cautious in their views.

4. Staff morale is inevitably affected by the possibility of savage cuts. In addition, the Executive Committee must take seriously existing contracts.

Bearing these facts in mind, it is suggested that the 1979 budget solution be firmly placed within a longer term plan for dealing with the underlying problems. This longer term plan could include the following points:

1. Within a period of time, the staff would be requested to reduce the Swiss franc expenses budget. A period of three years would be appropriate, as it would cover the term of all staff contracts. It would enable the process to be completed by the end of 1981.

2. During that period, sizeable increases would need to be sought from Central Church Treasuries for General Budget purposes, whereas after 1981, the emphasis would need to be placed upon contributions toward the expenses of the 1983 Assembly.

3. By the double effort of decreasing expenditures and increasing income, in 1980 any possible deficit could be kept to a minimum. In following years the expenditures from Central Church Treasuries would need to be held at 90% of income in order to repay the accumulated deficit.

4. In order to have funds to cover the deficits during the transition period, the Finance Committee has discussed alternative methods. It will be necessary to consult with the auditors to determine whether reserves might be utilized temporarily or whether it would be wiser to establish a line of credit with a bank, to be actually drawn upon only as needed. In either case, the amounts should be repaid over a three to four year period.

5. In order to effect the necessary reductions in budget, the Executive Committee will need to assign responsibility for studying and recommending specific measures, such as:

   (a) limiting expansion of programmes,

   (b) restricting staff appointments,

   (c) realigning activities and consolidating organizational structures,

   (d) determining the methods for (i) charging internal costs to departments, and (ii) establishing the level for fund balances and reserves (always honouring any designations by donors).

The Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Committee

1. approve the 1979 Budget as submitted; (Appendix IV)

2. urge staff to endeavour to contain expenses, other than salaries and related costs, to a maximum of 95% of the approved 1979 Budget;

3. request the Finance Committee to explore the means for funding deficits in 1979 and 1980 and to present recommendations to the Executive Committee in December 1978;

4. request the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration to provide quarterly reports, which compare actual expenses with budget and present other pertinent information to the Officers, the members of the Finance Committee, the Moderator of the Review Committee and the Moderators of Unit Committees, and that the Officers, together with the Moderator of the Finance Committee be authorized to take such action between meetings of the Executive Committee as they may deem necessary on the basis of such quarterly reports in order to attain the financial objectives established by the Executive Committee, and that the Officers be required to give serious consideration to recommendations for that purpose that may come from the other recipients of the reports;

5. following upon any suggestions from the Review Committee, the General Secretary be requested to present to the Executive Committee in December 1978 proposals for the means to study and implement a realignment of activities and a consolidation of organizational structures that would effect economies and that would facilitate the achievement of a balanced budget by 1981;

6. establish the policy that all staff appointments be subject to review for their financial implications as well as for programme requirements, and to that end, that appointments be made only after advice on financial implications has been received from the Finance Committee; in exceptional cases appointments between meetings be subject to consultation between the Officers, the Moderator of the Finance Committee and the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration.

In reply to a question from Mr Davies, Dr Marshall explained that this referred to appointments in Grade 6 and above.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

Appointment of Auditors

It is recommended that Touche, Ross & Co. be re-appointed as Auditors for the 1978 accounts.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Method of Valuing Investments

The Audit Committee had recommended that investments be shown on the balance sheet at market value. The Finance Committee agreed that the implications of adopting this method of valuation be given further study before a recommendation is submitted to the Executive Committee.

Audit Committee

The Finance Committee records its thanks for the valuable work of the Audit Committee under its Moderator, Dr Rossel.

Investment Advisory Group

The Committee records its warmest thanks for the assistance given by the Investment Advisory Group, in particular the helpful advice it has provided during a period of extreme volatility in foreign exchange markets.

Communications

The Finance Committee received an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Officers of the Communications Committee, urging that the 1979 Budget of the Department of Communication be maintained on its present level of expenditure. The Finance Committee, while noting the comments contained in the minute, considered that the recommendations already outlined above, if adopted by the Executive Committee, would meet the points made by the Officers of the Communications Committee.

Provident and Retirement Fund Boards

The Committee was advised that the Boards of the Provident and Retirement Funds would be meeting in Geneva on September 25. A report of that meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance Committee in December.

WCC Headquarters

The Finance Committee recommends that, having regard to current financial circumstances, the proposal for building an extension to WCC Headquarters be abandoned. It understands, however, that additional space may be required in the short-term by other organizations who share the occupancy of the premises with the WCC. If these needs cannot be satisfied within the present Headquarters building, the Committee recommends that authorization be given for a lease to be signed for currently available office space on the second floor of the Château Pictet for a maximum period of three years.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

The Finance Committee considered a report on the location of the WCC Headquarters which had been prepared at the request of the Executive Committee at their February 1978 meeting (Minutes, p. 30). The Committee appreciates the considerable and thorough study made by the staff on this subject.

It recommends that the Executive Committee:

1. adopt the working criteria used in the report as amended by the Finance Committee; (Appendix V)

2. in order to obtain some indication of comparative costs over a five-year period between two centres, request staff to compare costs over the past five years (1973-1977 inclusive) between one of the locations which appears to satisfy many of the criteria, namely London, with the costs incurred over the same period in Geneva, taking inflation and exchange rates into consideration;

3. endeavour to obtain from one or two member churches with experience of re-locating their Headquarters, an indication of the total costs of re-location incurred, to give the Committee some guidance on estimating the size of expenditure which might be envisaged in moving the WCC Headquarters from Switzerland;

4. defer any further consideration of the subject of re-location until December 1978 by which time it is hoped the above information will be available.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

Fund Raising

Under prevailing financial conditions and recognizing that concentrated efforts will be needed to achieve the targets for increased income envisaged earlier in this report, the Finance Committee strongly underlines the recommendations adopted at the February 1978 meeting of the Executive Committee (Minutes, p. 29).

In particular, it wishes to stress the condition that "all approaches to member churches and donor agencies be cleared through the Office for Income Coordination and Development in order to avoid competing requests".

The Committee also recommends that authorization to seek or to apply additional funds to cover any items of expenditure which are over and above the approved budget be granted only by specific resolution of the Executive Committee, providing the Department or Sub-Unit concerned has otherwise reduced to a significant degree its dependence on Central Church Treasury income, internal transfers from other Sub-Units, or fund balances.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Finance Committee of the Central Committee

The Finance Committee recommends that the Central Committee be requested to add to its Finance Committee those members of the Executive Finance Sub-Committee who are not already members of the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Dr Marshall reported that, following the directive of the Nairobi Assembly to the Central Committee and staff to arrange consultations with the appropriate finance and other officers of the member churches and their agencies "so as better to understand each other's policies, programmes, and financial situations and possibilities and also the particular mandate restrictions which condition the life and work of each" (Breaking Barriers, Nairobi 1975, p. 289), a consultation with finance officers of member churches and agencies would be held in Geneva, 27-28 October.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-Committee, including its recommendations.

The Moderator expressed appreciation to Mr Kenworthy and all the staff whose work had made this report possible.

13. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dr Raiser reported that a number of applications for membership were under discussion. He referred particularly to the application of the Eglise du Christ au Zaïre: Communauté Episcopale Baptiste en Afrique for full membership. The church now had 20,000 baptized adult members and a total community of 27,000.

There was considerable discussion on the different methods of calculating statistics of church membership and whether the WCC could accept as members of a church community those who were not baptized. Metropolitan Chrysostomos recommended, in view of the concerns expressed by the Orthodox churches, that a committee be set up to consider further the criteria for membership in the World Council.

It was agreed to ask Mr Bena Silu, Metropolitan Gregorios and Dr Raiser to prepare a statement on the application of the Communauté Episcopale Baptiste en Afrique.

At a later session, Dr Raiser presented a proposed statement to be sent to the church. This was agreed as follows:

> The Executive Committee considered again the application for membership from the Eglise du Christ au Zaïre: Communauté Episcopale Baptiste en Afrique. This church has been an associate member for some time, and the desire of the church for full membership, in the light of its growth in membership in the past few years, was appreciated, especially in the light of the fact that the community is much larger than the number of its adult baptized members. Since the membership of the church is still below the required minimum, it was suggested that the church should continue as an associate member and apply for membership again when the criteria can be more adequately met.

14. LEGAL STATUS OF WCC

Dr Raiser reported that the Canton of Geneva had asked that the legal status of the Council be clarified in its Rules.

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that Rule XIII 2) be revised as follows:

> The legal headquarters of the Council shall be at Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland. It is registered in Geneva as an association according to Article 60 ff of the Swiss Civil Code. Regional offices may be organized in different parts of the world by decision of the Central Committee.

15. PREPARATIONS FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Miss van Vredenburch presented the proposed timetable for the Central Committee and reported on practical arrangements. Following up initial contacts made by the General Secretary, she had paid a two-week visit to Jamaica in June, meeting leaders of the churches and of the Jamaica Christian Council, government officials and staff of the University of the West Indies. A planning committee had been set up in Jamaica, with sub-committees on programme, finance and practical arrangements. The General Secretary had appointed a staff committee to work on arrangements for worship. The meeting would be accommodated on the University campus and participants would be housed in student halls.

Dr Raiser referred to a number of aspects of the programme, pointing out that the meeting would be one day longer than usual, which would provide more time for contacts with the local people and for Unit Committee meetings. He asked for advice particularly on the selection of topics for the plenary sessions on January 3-5 and the time allocated to groups.

A number of topics for plenary discussion were suggested. It was generally felt that these sessions should be forward looking rather than merely reporting and should concentrate on issues relating to the total life of the WCC, such as JPSS or the dialectic of "unity in hope". More specialized items should come to plenary only through the Unit Committees. This meeting of Central Committee would mark the midway point between Assemblies and, while receiving reports on past activities, should focus particularly on the work which needs to be done in the coming period. It was suggested that those who present reports to plenary sessions should not read the whole document but briefly highlight the main items. The importance of allowing sufficient time for discussion, both in plenary and in groups, was stressed. Dr Marshall asked that members of the Finance and Review Committees have an opportunity also to attend part of the Unit Committees. A

number of members spoke of the importance of small groups, which might be used for Bible study connected with the themes of plenary presentations or the discussion of such documents as "A Common Account of Hope".

With regard to worship, it was noted that the midnight Orthodox Christmas service on the campus should be held on 6 January, in addition to the Ethiopian Orthodox service in the town to which some participants would be invited. The worship committee was asked to consider the possibility of groups meeting prior to the watchnight service on 31 December for members to share information about their churches and countries.

The General Secretary was asked to finalize the proposed programme and timetable in the light of this discussion.

16. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Executive Committee

It was noted that the next meetings of the Executive Committee would be:

29-31 December, 1978, Jamaica
10-14 September, 1979, Geneva
11-15 February, 1980, Geneva
11-13 August, 1980, Geneva

B. Central Committee

It was noted that the next meetings of the Central Committee would be:

1-11 January, 1979, Jamaica
14-22 August, 1980, Geneva

It was noted that, in addition to Archbishop Sundby's invitation to the Central Committee to meet in Sweden, an invitation was also likely to be received from the churches in the German Democratic Republic.

C. Sixth Assembly

The General Secretary reported that the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, had been reserved between mid-July and August and that an invitation from the Canadian churches to hold the next Assembly there would come to the Central Committee in Jamaica.

17. CLOSING ACTIONS

Miss Skuse, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked the Church of Finland, and particularly Archbishop Simojoki and Bishop Nikolainen, for the invitation to meet in Helsinki; the Ecumenical Council of Finland and its General Secretary, Miss Castrén, for all their work in connection with the meeting, for their reception and for arranging the weekend visits to parishes; Bishop Nikolainen and Metropolitan John for their receptions; the Manager of the Hanasaari Centre for making participants so comfortable; and the two Finnish students, the interpreters and all staff who had helped before and during the meeting.

Archbishop Sundby expressed the gratitude of the Executive Committee to the Moderator and Vice-Moderators for their wise leadership.

Archbishop Scott asked Committee members to give the Officers their suggestions on ways of improving Executive Committee meetings in future.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Presidents:
Hon. Mrs Justice A.R. Jiagge
Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Most Rev. O. Sundby
Dr C. Wedel

Officers:
Most Rev. E.W. Scott (Moderator)
His Holiness Karekin II (Vice-Moderator)
Miss J. Skuse (Vice-Moderator)
Rev. Dr P.A. Potter (General Secretary)

Members:
His Eminence Antonie (Plamadeala)
Rev. Dr A. Appel
Prof. Dr A. Barkat
Mr Bena-Silu
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr H.H. Harms
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Gundayayev)
Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall
Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Mrs D. Sampath
Miss P. Webb

Guest:
Archbishop Dr Martti Simojoki

Observers: from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Archbishop Mikko Juva
Bishop Aimo Nikolainen
Bishop P. Kortekangas
Rev. Samuel Lehtonen

from the Ecumenical Council of Finland:

His Eminence Metropolitan John of Helsinki
Rev. Sergei Dubrovin

from the Host Committee:

Miss Inga-Brita Castrén
Dr J. Martikainen

Staff:	Dr P. Abrecht
	Miss B. Bam
	Mr P. Bibus
	Dr K. Bridston
	Mr T. Davies
	Mr J. Fischer
	Dr J. Hertz
	Mr J. Hilke
	Mr C.I. Itty
	Mr W. Kenworthy
	Mr N. Koshy
	Dr L. Niilus
	Dr K. Raiser
	Dr S. Samartha
	Dr B. Sjollema
	Dr L. Vischer
	Miss M. van Vredenburch
	Mr L.C. Weil
Interpreters:	Miss I. Friedeberg
	Miss R. Ginglas
	Mr A. Nalpanis
Minute Writer:	Miss A. Burrows
Administration:	Miss R. Green
	Miss A. Iho
	Miss T. Varjoranta

APOLOGIES:

Honorary President:	Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
President:	Dr T.B. Simatupang
Member:	Rev. J. Gatu

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall (Moderator)
His Eminence Antonie (Plamadeala)
Prof. Dr A. Barkat
Mr Bena-Silu
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Gundayayev)
Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Miss P. Webb

Sub-Committee on Staffing and Nominations, and Programme

Miss J. Skuse (Moderator, Staffing and Nominations)
Hiss Holiness Karekin II (Moderator, Programme)
Rev. Dr A. Appel
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Rev. J. Gatu
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang
Mrs D. Sampath

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

APPENDIX III

LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1978

I. RACIALLY OPPRESSED GROUPS

AFRICA

*	African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)	US $ 25,000
*	Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	US $ 25,000
*	South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)	US $ 5,000
*	South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)	US $ 125,000
		US $ 180,000

AUSTRALIA

	Aboriginal Community Organisation Course	US $ 12,000
*	North Queensland Land Council	US $ 17,500
	Kimberley Aboriginal Land Council	US $ 12,500
		US $ 42,000

LATIN AMERICA

*	Consejo Regional Indigena del Cauca (CRIC)	US $ 15,000

NORTH AMERICA

(Canada + USA)

*	Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, DENE, Canada	US $ 17,500
	Hunters and Trappers Association, Canada	US $ 12,500
*	National Indian Youth Council, USA	US $ 12,500
	Indian Law Resource Center, USA	US $ 12,500
*	International Indian Treaty Council, USA	US $ 12,500
	National Conference of Black Lawyers, USA	US $ 12,500
		US $ 80,000

EUROPE

Britain

*	Institute of Race Relations	US $ 12,500
*	Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants	US $ 12,500
*	Race Today Collective Association	US $ 12,500

France

*	Collective of African Organisations in France	US $ 20,000
		US $ 57,500

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

*	Asia -	Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee	US $	5,000
*	Australia -	Southern Africa Liberation Center	US $	5,000
*		Campaign Against Racial Exploitation	US $	5,000
*	Belgium -	Aktiekomitee Zuidelijk Afrika Comité contre le Colonialisme et l'Apartheid	US $	7,500
*	Britain -	The Anti-Apartheid Movement	US $	5,000
		Namibia Support Committee	US $	5,000
*	Canada -	Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa (TCLSAC)	US $	5,000
*	France -	Campagne Anti-Outspan	US $	5,000
*	GFR -	Anti-Apartheid Movement Information Centre on Southern Africa	US $	7,500
*	New Zealand -	National Anti-Apartheid Council	US $	5,000
*	USA -	Puerto Rico Solidarity Committee	US $	5,000
			US $	60,000

Total: US $ 434,500

*Movements which received grants before

APPENDIX IV

1 9 7 9 B U D G E T (in Swiss Francs)

BUDGET ENTITY	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	INTERNAL TRANSFERS	TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET	INCOME FROM CHURCHES & DONOR AGENC.	INTERNAL TRANSFERS	REQUIRED TRANSFERS FROM CCT	REQ.T'FERS FROM FUND BALANCES/ RESERVES	GROSS BUDGET
General Secretariat	796.120		796.120			796.120		
New York Office	348.800		348.800	188.500	33.600	126.700		
Conference Secretary	59.754		59.754			59.754		
OICD	189.850		189.850			189.850		
Document. Service	54.050		54.050			54.050		
WCC Governing Bodies	356.000		356.000		155.050	200.950		
Library	107.230		107.230			107.230		410.030
Faith & Order	756.440	35.000	791.440	253.000	22.000	516.440		
CWME	1.633.930	695.850	2.329.780	2.013.000			316.780	
DFI	624.730		624.730	80.000	315.800	228.930		
Church & Society	429.770		429.770	170.000		259.770		
PTE	1.426.420	8.750	1.435.170	1.220.930			214.240	
Unit I	4.375		4.375			4.375		
Unit II - Serv. Progr.	764.000	116.400	880.400	1.310.000	512.000			-941.600
CICARWS	6.131.990	1.482.700	7.614.690	6.522.000				1.092.690
CCIA	907.120		907.120	373.300	56.700			477.120
PCR	617.380	15.500	632.880	416.000	84.000			132.880
CCPD	1.304.275	130.500	1.434.775	1.434.775				
CMC	1.827.240	84.610	1.911.850	1.065.000				846.850
Renewal & Congr. Life	511.700		511.700	150.000		361.700		
Youth	524.500		524.500	141.000	240.000	143.500		
Women in Church & Soc.	451.900		451.900	237.300		214.600		
Education	984.950		984.950	851.500				133.450
Scholarships	388.340		388.340	178.340	210.000			
Unit III	10.000		10.000			10.000		
Communication	(3.466.310)	(39.100)	(3.505.410)	771.000	723.010	2.011.400		
- Director's Office	245.920		245.920					
- News Office	371.960	33.600	405.560					
- Editorial Office	381.460		381.460					
- Film & Visual Arts	378.360		378.360					
- Radio & TV	226.750	5.500	232.250					
- Publications	1.465.920		1.465.920					
- Language Service	395.940		395.940					

Bossey - Programme	724.000		724.000	657.600		86.400		
Bossey - Guest House	934.700		934.700	844.300		90.400		
Finance	149.826		149.826	150.000		-174		1.652.226
Business Office	10.000		10.000	10.000				153.600
Upkeep	36.500		36.500				36.500	1.119.218
Mail & Telephone	1.530		1.530				1.530	457.620
Cyclostyle	64.620		64.620				64.620	864.620
Economat	12.068		12.068			12.068		184.400
Personnel	8.846		8.846			8.846		529.902
General Reserve	110.000		110.000			110.000		
Assembly Reserve	110.000		110.000			110.000		
Contingencies	97.091		97.091			97.091		
T O T A L	26.936.355	2.608.410	29.544.765	19.017.545	2.352.160*	5.800.000	2.375.060	

* Excluding: - Reserves 139.850
- Sodepax 116.400

APPENDIX V

WORKING CRITERIA FOR POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION OF WCC HEADQUARTERS

a. Reasonable political freedom, freedom of speech, publication and press, allowing the WCC to speak and act in public in accordance with its own criteria.

b. Possibility of access to the country of location for representatives of member churches, irrespective of nationality and with a minimum of formalities, and the possibility of holding international meetings.

c. Reasonably stable cost of living, both for staff and their families as well as for general Headquarters services.

d. An economic system allowing the free movement of funds in all currencies used in connection with the WCC's activities.

e. Support by a local constituency of member churches and a favourable ecumenical climate.

f. Availability of experienced staff (preferably with knowledge of at least two of the working languages of the WCC) of all categories from local sources, as well as provision to employ foreign nationals.

g. Availability of suitable premises for office purposes and staff housing.

h. Good internal and international communications - for personal travel by air, rail and road, and otherwise, e.g. effective postal, telex and telephone communications would be essential.

i. Possibility to maintain working relationships with other international religious and secular bodies, in particular with UN agencies; and with national and local governments who should be experienced in dealing with international organizations.

j. The country of location should be one where multilingual approaches form part of its ethos.